



NEWS

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

L.A. County Board of Supervisors, 2nd District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RIDLEY-THOMAS TO JOIN GOVERNOR & SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF COUNTYWIDE 'GIFT FOR GUNS' PROGRAM

Voluntary gun surrender program, which was a success during the holidays in the communities of Compton and Lennox, will be implemented countywide

- WHAT:** News conference to announce the implementation of the countywide Gifts for Guns program, a program introduced in Compton and Lennox that encourages the voluntary surrender of any firearms – *no questions asked* – in exchange for gift certificates ranging from \$100 to \$200.
- WHO:** Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, L.A. County Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas and Don Knabe, Undersheriff Larry Waldie, Assistant Sheriff Paul Tanaka and a host of other Sheriff's Department representatives.
- WHEN:** **Thursday, March 26, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.**
- WHERE:** L.A. County Sheriff's Headquarters, 4700 Ramona Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 91754
- BACKGROUND:** In late December, 2009, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas joined Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca in reaching out to residents about the importance of keeping our communities safer. The successful holiday Gifts for Guns programs in Compton and Lennox were two of the first public safety initiatives to promote the reduction of gun violence in the Second District.

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Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas' Holiday Public Safety Initiatives a Great Start Leading into 2009

'Gift for Guns' programs and 'Love Them, Don't shoot them! Please Don't Fire Your Gun into the Air This New Year's Eve' are aimed at making communities safer for residents of the Second District

LOS ANGELES COUNTY – Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, joined by Los Angeles Police Chief, William Bratton; and Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca, reached out to County residents at a morning press conference at the Century Sheriff's Station for their participation in keeping our communities safer by not shooting guns into the air this New Year's Eve.

"The community response to getting guns off the streets of our communities has been phenomenal and has exceeded expectations," said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas. "I have taken a personal stand for the removal of guns from our communities and encourage residents to be responsible and not fire guns into the air at anytime, especially this upcoming New Year's Eve."

One of Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' first public safety initiatives aimed at making communities safer for residents of the Second District, was the safe surrendering of firearms in both Lennox and Compton, at the holiday "Gift for Guns" program.

The program encourages the voluntary surrender of any firearms – no questions asked, in exchange for gift certificates ranging from \$50 to \$200 redeemable at Ralphs, Food 4 Less and Target. These initiatives are the first of two similar holiday gun surrenders to promote gun violence reduction in the Second District during the holiday season.

Over 1800 guns have been collected in Compton and Lennox within the last six weeks. Of those 1800 weapons, 303 weapons and over 1700 rounds of ammunition were collected on Saturday, December 27, 2008 at the "Gifts for Guns" program held in the City of Compton at Ralph's Supermarket located at 280 E. Compton Blvd.

"I will actively sponsor and support more gun surrender programs throughout Los Angeles County," said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas. "I intend to continue the fight, alongside the Sheriff's Department, to keep our communities safe; our streets free of crime; and our schools a place where safety is not questioned and learning can take place."